

## *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*

### Advanced Organizers

#### Ethics

Descriptive - concerned with uncovering and delineating the moral tenets of a particular group  
Normative - conversion of descriptive ethics into prescriptions to guide correct conduct

#### Codes

Codes of Ethics help to define a profession, roles and responsibilities

#### APA Code

Cussed and discussed prior to 1952  
Original document approved in 1952  
Revised in 1959, 1963, 1968, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1991 and 1992

Enforced by the APA Ethics Committee  
Enforced by State-level Ethics Committees

Violations result in lost of licensure, professional standing, access to grants  
Reprimand, censure, termination of membership

#### Development of Code

Professorial ruminations 1952  
Empirical based 1959  
Critical incident collection

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### **Introduction**

Applies to psychologists in work related activities  
Often a higher standard than a legal standard  
Rules and Procedures for complaints, investigations, and determinations

### **Preamble**

Aspirational goals  
Psychologists work to develop a valid and reliable body of scientific knowledge based on research.  
Psychologists work to broaden knowledge and to apply it pragmatically to improve the conditions of both individuals and society.

### **General Principles**

Aspirational goals

Competence  
Integrity  
Professional and Scientific Responsibility  
Respect for People's Rights and Dignity  
Concern for Other's Welfare  
Social Responsibility

### **Specific Ethical Standards**

Enforceable  
Non-exhaustive list

- 1.0 General Standards**
- 2.0 Evaluation, Assessment or Intervention**
- 3.0 Advertising and Other Public Statements**
- 4.0 Therapy**
- 5.0 Privacy and Confidentiality**
- 6.0 Teaching, Training Supervision, Research and Publishing**
- 7.0 Forensic Activities**
- 8.0 Resolving Ethical Issues**

**Rules and Procedures**

Rules and Procedures of the Ethics Committee of APA  
Show Cause requirement by the Committee

Part I: Objectives and Authority of the Committee

Part II: General Operating Rules

General Provisions

Meetings and Officers

Confidentiality and Disclosures

Records

Jurisdiction

Reopened a Closed Case

Choice and Conversion

Failure to Cooperate with Ethics Process

Board of Directors' Standing Hearing Panel

Available Sanctions

Available Directives

Matters Requiring the Concurrence of the Chair of the Committee and the Director of the Ethics Office

Part III: Membership

Part IV: Show Cause Procedures Based upon Actions by Other Recognized Tribunals

Part V: Plenary Procedures for Complaints Against Members